

OTA

otaku fanzine

TEST
EDITION



A word from the editor

Artist spotlight:
Shinoasa



Memeomether!

What is hot right now



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Editorial

Is this the birth of an epic new meme?

—Anonymous /jp/ poster

Hello and nice to meet you. I am the aspiring editor of this magazine. Thank you for reading Ota.

You might be wondering why I'd set out on such a project. There have been many other fanzine attempts that have met mixed success but none ever became very popular. I'm aware of that too. I'm making this first edition mostly on a whim, after seeing an image of a cover of a fictitious fanzine about chan-related and otaku stuff. You've probably seen it many times as well. It made me think: wouldn't it be nice if such a magazine really existed? I expressed my feelings and some people seemed receptive to the idea of reading such a fanzine. So here I am, trying my hand at this!

If there is enough interest in this sort of thing, I might make other issues. I still haven't decided on a time frame between issues. Monthly releases would make it look really professional but I don't think I have enough time to fulfill strict deadlines. If more people want to help, maybe the time between releases will meet a significant reduction. For now, let's not dwell too much on the future and enjoy this edition!

I'm not the most well-versed person in otaku subjects. I know a thing or two, as well as enough Japanese to read manga. Bear that in mind as you read some of the more serious articles.

The subjects dealt with in this edition, as well as the images used, are the property of their respective owners. Images were used without permission.

This fanzine is not for sale to the general public. It is provided for free.

Contact me with your questions and complaints.

Artist spotlight - Shinoasa

Worthy of the honorific "sensei"!



Shinoasa, known as the artist of the circle Vivit Gray, is a master of the craft. Most of Shinoasa's work specializes in yuri undertones but to surmise shinoasa's work so simply is a mistake. Much like the stories, Shinoasa's simple, seemingly effortless style betrays its intricacies.



In the west, Shinoasa is best known for the series of Mokou x Keine non-erotic doujinshi. Like many other artists, this is a result of the often dull filter regulated by both the interest of translators as well as their audiences. A quick look at the pixiv page is enough to tell us of Shinoasa's wide body of work.

In *Mokou X Keine*, too, Shinoasa is an innovator. Mostly, when *Mokou X Keine* is mentioned, the first theme that pops in someone's head is the tragedy of Mokou's eternal life ((...) *Keine's one happy lifetime* by Ichikai is a good example). Shinoasa timidly breaks this mold. The stories focus on the romantic moments the couple experiences and there is hardly a reference to such a theme, though the reader may feel it's looming presence thanks in no small part to Shinoasa's amazing compositions, capturing stills of ordinary life, seen through Mokou's eyes. Yet, instead of an atmosphere of sadness, we are met with an air of resolve. The good times will end, that is an absolute. So let's leisurely enjoy them while they last. Fittingly, the introspection is often given closure by the beginning of yet another episode of life as a happy couple. Only great artists can breath new life into seemingly exhausted concepts. Shinoasa is one of those people.



But romance isn't all Shinoasa can do. Even in the most romantic work, there is a bit or two of comedy. Shinoasa has also produced adventure doujinshi of great quality and entertainment value, such as *wonder mine treasure*. The charm of Shinoasa's delivery is undeniable and will bring a smile to anyone's face

Shinoasa is still active. Just this October, there was na Aikatsu-only event where Aikatsu and Vivit Gray's fans were graced with another splendid work by one of the greats in the scene. It's thanks to the talent of artists such as Shinoasa that the doujin scene continues to have so much to offer, remaining competitive with commercial releases.



If you didn't yet know about Shinoasa, I hope this article managed to spark some curiosity. If you already knew about Shinoasa, I hope my article manages to do justice to your own assessments.

*"The good times will end,
that is an absolute.
So let's leisurely enjoy
them while they last."*

You can follow Shinoasa on pixiv, entering this link in your url:

<http://www.pixiv.net/member.php?id=747452>

Shinoasa also has a blog, as well as a twitter.

vivit-gray.jugem.jp

twitter.com/shinoasa

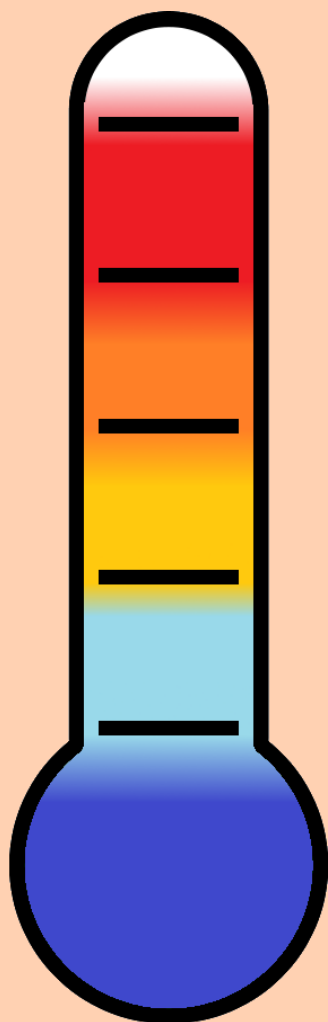
**Still in this edition: a quick peek
at Shinoasa's newest work!**

The Memeometer

Your guide to knowing what's all the rage in the hippest corners of the otaku world!

Here's how it works:

We rank a catch-phrase, meme, fad or style by popularity. The hotter it is, the better! Elaborated with side-notes.



White hot - this one is all the rage nowadays! It's got the right amount of creativity, charm and obscurity. Don't miss!



Red hot - amazing! There's only one minor detail stopping it from reaching the top of the top.



Hot - great content, but some of the wrong people are beginning to catch on. It's losing some heat but it still feels new!



Warm - great content that ages well or new content that has a particular charm. As well as content that has reached the mainstream but still has a chance of surprising you.



Cold - uh-oh! Something went wrong... There might still be a chance for content in this category but it might take a lot of good-will!



Ice cold - something very wrong happened with these. Bad execution, all the wrong people catching on, overuse, too forced... It's time to hibernate and try again some other time...

Time to pit the heat!

Have u tried a sweater? hahaha



WHITE HOT: past meets the present in form of a charming non-sequitur! Has a sweater ever not done any good? But how does it apply to the predicament of the poster this reply is meant to? Perhaps he'll find a moment of solace, following the attached image's lead and chuckling at such a silly suggestion!

Cunny cummies



Red hot: while technically two different memes, they are so related they should be seen as one. A new frontier has been broken in the realm of combined cute and lewd posting. Forbidden imagery is sure to come to mind when properly executed.

Play anime girls



Hot: recently there's been invigorated interest in roleplay. Playing anime girls is a sign of these times. Beginners beware -- leave this one to the pros. Very few people know how to play it and it's been reported a lot of people have died trying to play this game. Stay safe!

funY FACE!! LOOL



Warm: despite coming to existence some months ago, this meme's momentum shows no signs of stopping. It has invaded many an anime, image board and other internet communities. But wherever you go, there's one thing everyone agrees on: that face sure is funny!

Flower sundays



Warm: there's now something else to look forward to every sunday. I'm talking about the wonderful flower threads! A mysterious entity makes a thread, telling us about the flower representing that day, what the flower means in flower language, as well as what the japanese celebrate that day. Cue some comments about the day and an advice or two and it creates a lovely atmosphere ripe with discussion! I wonder what next sunday's flower is going to be...

Umaru



Cold: hopes were high that when "himouto! Umaru-chan" aired, the internet world would be graced with many red hot memes born out of this show. That seemed to be the case but, unfortunately, it quickly became too big for its own good. It's with a heavy heart that we report this meme is on its death bed...

Irony



ICE COLD: irony has become the catch-all face saver of the modern ridiculed poster. Undoubtedly the "troll" of the new generation. Have you made a post that is wrong? Say you were being ironic and it all goes away. Came to the realization that you're a walking stereotype? Simply remind yourself and others you're being ironic and hopefully no-one will call you out! The concept of irony has been corrupted and co-opted beyond repair. It's time to let go.

That wraps it up! Are you thinking about content that didn't make it to this issue's list? Contact us and we'll rate it!

Doujin previews, translated!

This is a very small sample of many doujinshi that have been released or are yet to be released. The editor has decided to not add anything too erotic seeing as this is the first issue.

In order to access the pixiv page, insert the number next to each doujin'd title to the following url:

http://www.pixiv.net/member_illust.php?mode=medium&illust_id=

The following previews are included in this fanzine without having asked for the authors' permission.

Pg. 11 - U/U/U - Usual & You & Universal
by Vivit Grey ([52959279](#))

Pg. 13 - Nico-chan, don't those make you feel hot?
by Rabi Star ([52712367](#))

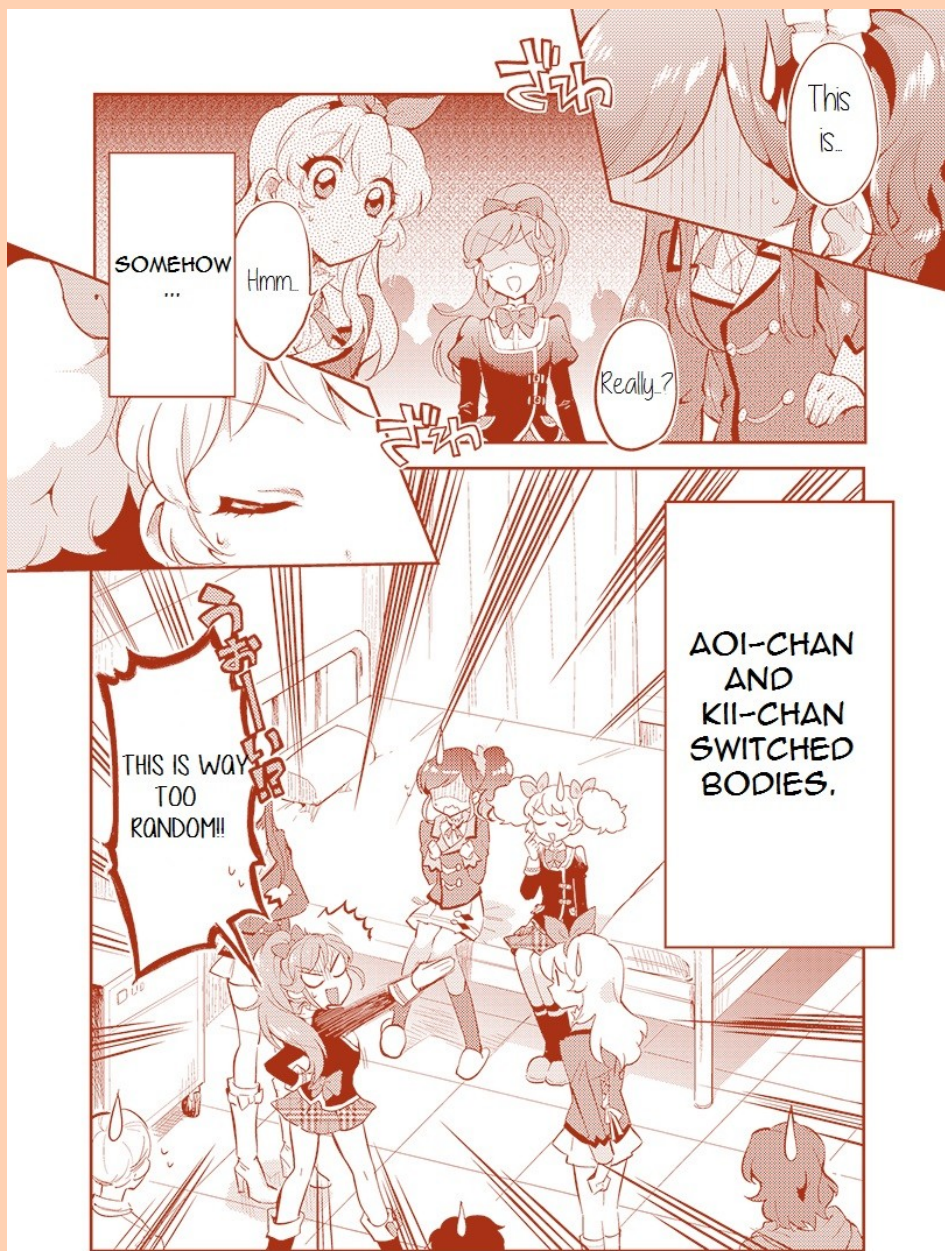
Pg. 18 - Going to the roof with Hirose-sama
by Iketa spirit ([47652950](#))



U/U/U—Usual & You & Universal

By vivit grey (ビビットグレー)

Parody: aikatsu





Nico-chan, don't those make you feel hot?

By Rabi Star (らびすたー)

Parody: love live









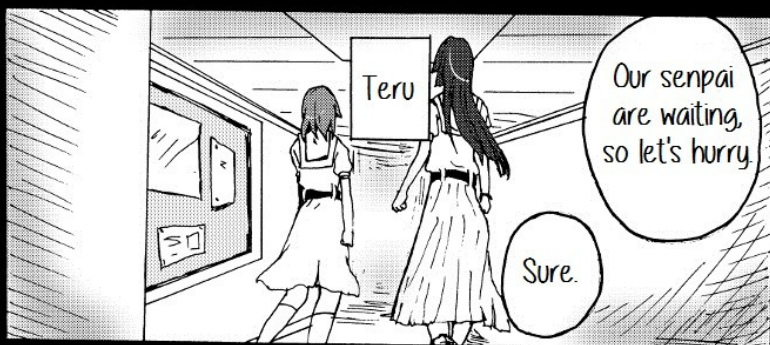


弘世様
屋上へ行く

Going to the roof with Hirose-sama

By Iketa Spirit (池田スピリット)

Parody: Saki





Final page and credits

I had lots of fun doing this. If this feeling manages to get across to my readers, that makes me glad.

I have no plans to make follow-up issues but that doesn't necessarily mean I might not make more. If there's enough interest, I might. It would be even more fun if people want to collaborate!

Thank you for your readership.

Credits

Cover images:

Aya by matsukichi.

http://www.pixiv.net/member_illustration.php?mode=medium&illust_id=52956930

Aikatsu by Shinoasa

http://www.pixiv.net/member_illustration.php?mode=medium&illust_id=44677959

Memeometer:

Mokou, Utsuho, Cirno, Letty, Yorihome by kikifushigi

<http://www.pixiv.net/member.php?id=1549698>

Reimu by west4side

http://www.pixiv.net/member_illustration.php?mode=medium&illust_id=6057213

Funny face Umi from Love Live